

GENERAL NOTES.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsi*) in Colorado.— A Correction.—

In writing the life history of the Yellow-billed Loon, I have been puzzled to know what to do with the supposed Colorado record of this species. I have always suspected that the record was based on an erroneous identification, as Colorado is so far away from the known range or migration route of this species.

The specimen on which it was based was taken by Mr. William G. Smith, near Loveland, Colorado, on May 25, 1885. A letter from Mr. Smith to Major Bendire, giving the details of its capture, is now in my hands and states that the bird was sold to Mr. Manly Hardy of Brewer, Maine, now deceased.

Knowing that the Hardy collection had been recently purchased for the Rhode Island Audubon Society and was now in the Park Museum in Providence, I wrote to my friend, Mr. Harry S. Hathaway, of that city, for his opinion, as to the identity of the specimen. He very kindly investigated the matter and sent me his report, together with a letter on the subject from Mrs. Fanny Hardy Eckstorm, which strengthened my doubts and practically convinced me that the record was based on an error. For my own personal satisfaction, I went to Providence and examined the specimen with Mr. Hathaway. It is not a Yellow-billed Loon, but a very curious specimen of the Common Loon and I am not surprised that Mr. Hardy, and others who have seen it, have been puzzled. Its entire plumage is decidedly worn and faded to a dull brownish shade. It is a young male in the immature plumage of the first year. Its bill is certainly yellow, the yellowest, or lightest colored, bill I have ever seen in any young loon, which probably led to its identification as *Gavia adamsi*; but the size and shape of the bill agree with *Gavia immer* and not with *G. adamsi*. The culmen measures about 3.20 in. and the depth of the bill at the base is about .90 in. Ridgway's 'Manual' gives, for *G. adamsi*, culmen 3.50 to 3.65 in. and depth, 1.00 to 1.20 in.; and for *G. immer*, culmen 2.75 to 3.50 in. and depth .90 to 1.05 in. The bird in question is small even for *Gavia immer* notwithstanding the fact that it is a male, and it has a particularly slender bill, even for that species, instead of the large, heavy bill, with the straight culmen so characteristic of *Gavia adamsi*. It is only fair to Mr. Hardy to say that he was in doubt about the bird and that the record never ought to have stood without verification. I cannot understand why some one, who was competent to identify the bird, did not examine the specimen before the record was published, which would have prevented the frequent repetition of an error, which can never be wholly rectified. Such errors are far too common and I hope that this one will be corrected in the next edition of our Check-List.— A. C. BENT, Taunton, Mass.

The Puffin (*Fratercula arctica arctica*) on Long Island, N. Y.— On April 30, 1915, a specimen of this species was found on the beach near Montauk Point and was sent to me for identification. The body of the bird was very much decayed and it may have perished several weeks before it was found. This appears to be the third record for Long Island.— J. A. WEBER, *Box 327, Palisades Park, N. J.*

A Near View of an Iceland Gull.— As notes on the Iceland Gull (*Larus leucopterus*) in life are rather scarce, the following observations on its appearance and actions may be worth recording. I found a bird of this species January 2, 1915, at the fish pier, South Boston. It was alternately swimming about and resting in the slip on the west side of the pier, and I watched it for some time with my bird-glass (of three diameters), part of the time within ten or fifteen yards, I should think. It was in the rare pure-white plumage (at least nothing but pure white could be seen on the most careful study under these favorable conditions) and the bill appeared to be entirely black, or blackish. It was clearly smaller than the Herring Gulls with which it was associated, and the bill, as always with this species, was noticeably shorter in proportion, giving a somewhat dove-like appearance to the head. It also carried its head higher and the tail, or rather the rear part of the body, cocked at more of an angle. The wings extended farther beyond the tail than was the case with the Herring Gulls. It was livelier and more "aristocratic" and graceful in bearing than these, and made pretty little dabs with its bill at morsels of food in the water. It appeared to be on terms of equality with the Herring Gulls and was always near them or among them. It had two or three little tiffs with them over food, but these were no more frequent than the quarrels among the Herring Gulls themselves. This bird was afterwards seen at the same place by Dr. Charles W. Townsend, and this or a similar pure-white Iceland Gull was observed at close range off Rockport, Mass., April 19, 1915, by Mr. Charles R. Lamb, who permits me to report the occurrence.— FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

The Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) in Eastern Minnesota.— While out on a bird-hunting trip with my class in ornithology on May 12, 1915, we saw an Arkansas Kingbird on the boulevard of Minnehaha Creek not far from Lake Harriet. There could be no doubt as to the identification, since he was in plain sight and the lemon-colored underparts were described by all the members of the class. This is the second time within a year that I have seen an Arkansas Kingbird in the neighborhood of the Twin Cities. Since the 'A. O. U. Check-List' names western Minnesota as the eastern boundary of the range of this species, while Hatch in his 'Birds of Minnesota' does not mention the bird at all, I thought the record might be of interest.— PROF. PAUL E. KRETZMANN, PH.D., *Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn.*